

We claim:

1. An operating system for a printing machine, comprising a graphic operating interface for allowing the printing machine to be controlled by actions made by an operator of the printing machine in the context of the operating interface, and electronic documentation selectively displayable on the operating interface as a result of actions by the operator in the context of the operating interface, said electronic documentation including operating instructions for the printing machine, a spare-parts catalog for the printing machine, containing numbers and drawings of spare parts, and maintenance instructions for the printing machine, the operating system also comprising a list with links between electronic addresses of electronic components in the printing machine and at least one of said spare-parts numbers and said spare-parts drawings, respectively, and when the operating system receives a report of a fault in an electronic component, the electronic address of which is specified, being capable of referring to the fault on the operating interface and, in response to an action by the operator, of displaying at least one of the associated spare-parts numbers and spare-parts drawings, respectively, on the operating interface.

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2. The operating system according to claim 1, wherein, in the event of a fault, the operator is able to call up a program to eliminate the fault.

3. The operating system according to claim 2, which includes being capable of establishing a telecommunication link to a remote service system when the fault elimination program is one of called up and executed, respectively.

4. The operating system according to claim 1, which includes being capable of monitoring maintenance intervals one of the printing machine and parts thereof, respectively, and being capable of referring the operator to due maintenance by displaying at least one appropriate symbol on the operating interface.

5. The operating system according to claim 4, which includes being capable of displaying maintenance information which becomes more detailed step by step, in response to actions by the operator in the context of a symbol referring to due maintenance.

6. The operating system according to claim 5, which includes, in response to an action by the operator in the context of a further symbol which is displayed when maintenance is due,

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being capable of resetting the maintenance message so that it reappears after a predetermined operating interval.

7. The operating system according to claim 5, which includes, in response to an action by the operator in the context of a further symbol which is displayed when maintenance is due, being capable of displaying a control list on the operating interface wherein confirmation of maintenance work which has been performed is requested.

8. The operating system according to claim 7, which includes being capable of transmitting said confirmation of maintenance work in said control list to a remote service system by a telecommunication link which is established as required.

9. The operating system according to claim 3, including a machine history maintained by at least one of the operating system and said remote service system, respectively.

10. The operating system according to claim 8, including a machine history maintained by at least one of the operating system and said remote service system, respectively.

11. The operating system according to claim 1, including a display by the operating interface of a schematic picture of one of the printing machine and at least one of the parts

thereof, respectively, and appropriate parts of the electronic documentation being displayed on the operating interface in response to actions by the operator of the printing machine in the context of the schematic picture.

12. A method of updating an operating system for a printing machine, which has a graphic operating interface for allowing the printing machine to be controlled by actions made by an operator of the printing machine in the context of the operating interface, and which has electronic documentation which, as a result of actions by the operator in the context of the operating interface, is displayed selectively on the operating interface, the electronic documentation including operating instructions for the printing machine, a spare-part catalog for the printing machine and maintenance instructions for the printing machine, the method which comprises, after conversion work performed on the printing machine, establishing a telecommunication link to a remote service system, for recording the conversion work which has been performed, compiling one of supplementary and updated electronic documentation, respectively, and one of supplementing the original electronic documentation by the supplementary documentation and replacing the original electronic documentation by the updated documentation, respectively.

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13. The method according to claim 12, which includes providing the remote service system with access to a database containing all the data necessary for compiling documentation for any desired machine configurations.

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